

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

From the Pastor's Desk

“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” (1 Corinthians 10:13)

These words from the Apostle Paul became quite real for me this past week. The story goes like this:

A few days ago, my bride and I went shopping for several items, which included some very pricy trim boards for a project in our home. We selected several boards, binding them together with some of the plastic shrink wrap the store supplies so that we could transport them home more easily. Before we left the store the cashier scanned our purchases, paid and left the store.

In the parking lot, Gelene reviewed the receipt and found that we had only been billed for one piece of trim. I reviewed the receipt as well and found that, sure enough, the cashier had only billed us for one piece of trim instead of the nine that we had wrapped together. We immediately returned to the store, going to the clerk to advise him of the mistake, and we paid what we owed.

It was only as we were driving home that we discussed our experience. It seems that Gelene and I each had the same thought run through our minds as we discovered the underpayment... “Well, it’s their loss, our gain.” It is amazing to me to realize just how quickly that “Old Adam” in each of us will tempt us to do those things which we know will go against what the New Life in Christ would have us do.

We had already exited the store, receipt in hand. Nobody would have been any the wiser if we had just looked at this incident as a stroke of luck on our part, had taken our gain and gone home. We would have saved a bunch of money on the home project. But Gelene would have known that I had sinned, as I would have known of her, too. And certainly, God would have known of our actions. Each of us would have known that Gelene and I had succumbed to the temptation to break the 7th Commandment. And knowing that what we were tempted to do was wrong, we would have been guilty of breaking the 1st Commandment as well.

But “*God is faithful.*” By the power of His Holy Spirit, He shows us our weaknesses and reminds us of His perfect will for our lives. “*But with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*”

Yes, even pastors and their wives face temptation. But I praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that he is faithful, and that “*he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability....*”

In Christ, Pastor Dan

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Letter from Trinity President

“To be a people that know, love and share Christ.” This is our vision statement and should guide our every action. We recite this vision at every Annual and Council meeting and is printed on our worship bulletins every week. In order to share Christ, we need to go outside the walls of the church. In Mark 2:1-6 we hear how 4 friends did everything they could to meet their paralytic friend’s need. Listen to Mark’s account of that event.

“Jesus returned to Capernaum, and a few days later the news went out that He was at home. So many people gathered together that there was no longer room [for them], not even near the door; and Jesus was discussing with them the word [of God].

Then they came, bringing to Him a paralyzed man, who was being carried by four men. When they were unable to get to Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Jesus; and when they had dug out an opening, they let down the mat on which the paralyzed man was lying. When Jesus saw their [active] faith [springing from confidence in Him], He said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” Mark 2:1-5 AMP. Notice how in verse 5, Jesus saw the active faith of the 4 friends and He forgave the paralytic sins and healed him. These 4 friends demonstrated faith by their actions. There are times when we may need unique and unconventional means of reaching out to those who have needs. Ways to invite people to be in the presence of Jesus.

We also see examples of faith in action in Hebrews 11. The May 4, 2021, In Touch Ministries Daily Devotion was entitled Faith is Action. “Faith is often thought of as a thing we have—a belief in something or someone. But in the Scriptures, faith is more than a passive possession—it’s a firm confidence that results in action. In today’s passage, an action follows every mention of faith. Noah prepared an ark, Abraham obeyed without knowing

where he was going, and Sarah confidently anticipated the son God promised. Instead of sitting back, believers should count on God’s promises and act accordingly, as did the men and women listed in Hebrews 11. The Lord accomplished amazing feats through their lives when they believed Him and moved out in obedience. Like a muscle, faith grows the more we put it into action. In this way, believers strengthen their trust in God and His promises, even when they don’t live long enough to see the fulfillment in their lifetime. Are you acting on your faith in God and His Word? When you see a command or warning in Scripture, do you obey it? Are you letting biblical truths about God’s character and power shape your thinking and responses? If so, your faith is growing strong.”

Called to *Serve*

Do you see any unfulfilled needs in your families, friends or community and feel the Holy Spirit urging you to do something about it? This happens to me frequently. It can be overwhelming because the needs are great but then I remember the promises of God given to us in His Word. Here are just a few: 2 Timothy 1:7-8 - For God has not given us a Spirit of Fear, but of power and love and a sound mind. Therefore, do not be

ashamed of the testimony of our Lord. Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. 1 John 5:4 - For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. When we step out in faith, we not only help others but have a breakthrough in our faith and testimony. The Council has identified the need to increase TLC’s outreach effort and commitment to missions. If you have ideas how TLC can reach out better to our communities, let me know and I can direct your idea to the proper TLC team. Email: jimmymac6979@gmail.com

In closing, please join me in praying this prayer:

Holy Spirit, encourage me to serve where you want me to go. Help me to love and commit to those who need Christ. Amen

Jim McGraw

✝ **September WORSHIP ASSISTANTS** ✝

	Sept 3 8:30a	Sept 3 10:00a	Sept 10 10:00a	Sept 17 10:00a	Sept 27 10:00a
GREETERS	John & Janet Schieffer	Terri Freeman	Marcia Kampf	Brenda Mackey	Jackie & Dan Healy
USHERS		Rob Freeman Wally Thom	LeRoy Brensel Mike Capra	Mike Rubin NEED	Wally Thom Steve Tracey
COMM. ASSTS		Kathy Thom	Karen Scott	Pat Mackey	Joanne Schilling
READER	Karen Hayes	Gloria Widiker	Sue Capra	Gloria Widiker	Ellen Ehrich

SURVEY SAYS.....

To Continue outdoor and indoor services at Trinity as usual..... or is it time to consider some changes.....

BE watchful for a survey in the OCTOBER Journey - take the time to complete the survey, SHARE your thoughts, CHOOSE your preferences.

WMMT/Trinity Council



David Dhein 9/1
 Anna Will 9/03
 Steven Kotel 9/8
 Connie Larson 9/8
 Kelsie Lavalieri 9/8
 Victoria Lindow 9/8
 Tate Nordback 9/8
 Rocky Strand 9/10
 Logen Gindt 9/12
 Becca Hedman 9/12
 Ida Jahnke 9/15

Mariah Lightner 9/16
 Brad Ivers 9/17
 Edward Leader 9/19
 Tony Kolodzinski 9/20
 Lucas Gindt 9/21
 Stan Dahl 9/22
 Barb Kleven 9/22
 Ryan Liermann 9/26
 Kyle Roppe 9/26
 Lauren Brunclik 9/29
 Payton Schultz 9/30

CHOIR & PRAISE TEAM REHEARSALS START SEPTEMBER 6

DO YOU SING IN THE PEW?! Then join the Choir or Praise Team! We need NEW VOICES in the Trinity Choir and Praise Team! NO AUDITIONS! And you don't need to be able to read music . . . We'll make sure you learn your part! If you are high school age or older, just show up on September 6, at 7 pm. The returning members will make you feel very welcome! Rehearsals usually run from 7 – 8:30 pm, and the choir sings the first and third Sundays of each month.

The Praise Team will rehearse at 8 pm, September 6. They lead the music on the second Sunday of each month and will start on September 10. Questions? Call Joanne Schilling, 715-651-4875

Meeting

NEXT MEETING OF . . .

Birchwood Food Pantry Open. Sept 4, 18-10:30-12:30pm

Worship & Music Team. Sept 11, 10:00a

Women of Trinity Sept 16, 10:00

Trinity Council Meeting Sept 19, 6:30p

Men's Ministry of Trinity Sept 21, 6:30 pm

A letter from our associate Pastor Barb

Peace and joy to you as we begin our fall season!

As we look forward to the changes that fall brings, we're aware of the changes that take place in our church and in our community. The weather is cooler, the busy pace of Summer activities slows down, our church is back to one service, we have more time to be involved with Bible Studies, and activities at Trinity, teachers and students are back in school.

As the body of Christ, we are called to be a light in the world around us, and share his love, and concern. There are people in our congregation that need encouragement and care. Please talk to Pastor Dan and me about how to connect with them. Be aware of new people that attend our church, and reach out to them. There are children in this community and teachers as well that need our care, attention, and encouragement. They need to know God's love and salvation through His Son, Jesus! Some of the ways we can connect with the students in our community are to:

- † Attend their baseball, softball, football, basketball, or volleyball games. Kids notice when we care.
- † Be involved in "Book Buddies"- this is a program in the Birchwood elementary school where you are assigned one child or more to read with (one on one) and spend a morning with them for about 1 1/2 hours. The attention they receive from you and the relationship you develop is priceless! Call Rose Cutsforth for more information on this! 715-977-2905.
- † Get to know the teachers and (or) others who work at the school.
- † Attend a school board meeting and see what is happening.
- † Pray for Birchwood School, the teachers and our youth and their families. Invite them to church.
- † Pray for the people in our community, be aware of their needs, how we can help and how we can share the gospel to them.

As members of the Body of Christ, we at Trinity have an amazing opportunity to make a difference and be a light and share God's love here in Birchwood.

HEBREWS 13:16

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

It must be an easy thing to forget to do good, since we are reminded not to forget to in this verse. A practical way to remember to do good is to make it a daily part of our prayers to ask God for specific ways throughout our day to serve and share with others.

God bless and keep you all in His care.

Love and prayers, Pastor Barb

Men's Ministry of Trinity

Happy Summer to you all. The men's group has been busy lately. We have finally placed the garage on the concrete slab that was poured. We firmed up the structure by using various sheets of plywood that we were given to us by Joan and Roy Kuula. We were able to disassemble shelving at the former "Just Rite on Main" for all the plywood we used. Many thanks to Joan and the memory of Roy. This week you should see siding going up which was donated by Wes Mohn's grandson.

This project has been a long time coming and finally there is major movement on the structure. Thank you to all the men who have helped. Speaking of men, if you haven't been contacted by email from Trinity or a text from Wally Thom about any projects the Men's group are working on, then we need to hear from you. Not only is there work to be done but the fellowship is invaluable, you will understand how the term family plays into the work session.

We have several other projects on the docket for the men's group that are not on the church property. This is where the men's group is reaching out to parishioners in need. This outreach is part of Gods plan to seek out those in need and be a lamp unto their feet.

As I am typing this the heat wave is coming again so be safe, stay cool and hydrated and remember, TRINITY IS OPEN ON SUNDAY. God bless

Wally Thom-President



Haiti's Children Inc closing after 15 years of service

In 2008 Haiti's Children Inc. was formed by Gladys Mungo. Gladys along with a board of directors founded a ministry whose goals were to assist the physical, mental emotional and spiritual health needs of the children in southern Haiti. Thousands of children with their families have been helped through the school feeding programs, adopt-a-child school sponsorship, medical assistance, short-term mission teams, as a feeding and distribution outlet for Feed My Starving Children and other programs. Trinity Lutheran Church has supported Haiti's Children for many years. Unfortunately, due to protests, kidnappings, robberies and killings in Haiti, Gladys was brought back to the U.S. at the recommendation of the board of directors. Due to the unrest in Haiti, the organization has closed as of July 31st. Gladys sends her heartfelt thanks to all who supported her mission through financial support and gracious gifts for the children. God has worked wonders through you.

Elaine Ploessl-Missions & Outreach



You can see our doors again

The Men have been busy again! We have removed the trees besides the entry doors coming into the church. They were overgrown and dying on the back side, and wasps were making their home in the trees. So now you can see the front doors again.



AND we are open on Sundays!

Women of Trinity



Women of Trinity – August Happenings

The Annual Rummage Sale will be held September 8 and 9th! Items will be accepted starting September 3rd and set up will be September 5-7. Proceeds from the sale support local and global ministries – please consider your support of this wonderful event!

Altar Guild for August is Eleanor Kuula and September is Diane Buxton.

The Secret Sister cards have been distributed! Please pray for your sister and let her know you're thinking about her with a card or note. The "Big Reveal" will be held in October date tbd.

We will be celebrating the high school graduation of Jimmy Kolodzinski September 17th after the worship service. Please join us!

Meals for the Youth will resume on Wednesday nights in September. Consider how you might contribute to meals for the kids and their adult leaders!

The nominating committee is looking for people to fill the roles of President, Vice President, Secretary and Fellowship Team. Prayerfully consider if God is calling you to serve in one of these roles on the church council!

Calling ALL Women of Trinity! Our next meeting is September 16th, 2023, at 10:00am! Please join us for fellowship, support of our sisters and our church, and planning future events!



Food for Thought

Matthew 9: 35-38 (ESV): *“And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”*

Here at Trinity we have talked of John 3: 16, *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”* The love of God for the world, the entire world, just as it is, is found in Jesus. Often, when we speak of the land in which Jesus lived out his life, we refer to it as the “Holy Land.” Truth be told, the Holy Land was just as unholy as is the world today. Daily lives of the people were filled with tragedy, People at the end of their ropes looked for a way out as they do now.

As Jesus looked at the temple in the Holy Land, he said “do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down close quote (Mark 13: 2). As Jesus overlooked Jerusalem, He laments over her: *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!”* (Matt 23: 37, ESV).

When looking at the sin in this world, did Jesus ever despair? Did he tell his little band of disciples, “Guys, it's useless. There's nothing we can do. Let's get out while the getting is good.” No, absolutely not! Jesus has never declared this world to be hopeless, for he had compassion on people. He gave himself for the “harassed and helpless” people, those who are lost, separated from God, and without hope in this world. It is for those people that we are called to proclaim the remarkable story of Christ crucified. That story is the good news of the Kingdom, that in Christ Jesus there is full forgiveness of every sin and a redeemed life for all sinners who accept the forgiveness only Jesus can bring. He understands the world that we live in, and he stands ready to give a new life to people just like you and me. Trust in him with your whole heart and be saved from the evil and madness and futility of a life lived without him.

“For God so love the world that he gave his only Son...” Even now, as when Jesus walked among us, he continues to reap a great harvest through his ministry of compassion. How? His compassion is exercised by all kinds of people who have a heart for their family, their friends, and their neighbors, because they have been blessed with a heart for the Lord.

It's important for you and me who declare Jesus as our savior to be followers, fellow workers in the harvest field. This is the direction Jesus Christ points you and me—toward the world. Because it is the world that He loves, the world he has compassion for. It is important that this world hears just how much God loves them: “He sent His only Son to die” for them.” We can help share that message by our compassion toward this world. In Jesus name.

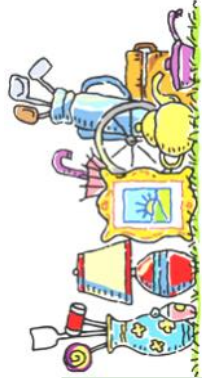
September 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 OFFICE CLOSED	2
3 8:30 am Outside Worship 10:00 am Worship	4 OFFICE CLOSED in Observance of Labor Day 9:00a Quilters 11:0:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open NO Women's Bible Study 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	5	6 6:30a Men's Bible Study 7:00 TLC Choir Rehearsal 8:00p Praise Team Reher	7 10:00 Women's Bible Study	8 Rummage Sale OFFICE CLOSED	9 Rummage Sale
10 10:00 am Worship	11 9:00a Quilters 10:00a WMMT Mtg 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	12	13 6:30a Men's Bible Study 11:30 Mission & Outreach mtg 7:00 TLC Choir Rehearsal	14 10:00 Women's Bible Study	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16
17 10:00 am Worship Love Fund/Food Pantry Offering	18 9:00a Quilters 10:30a-12:30p—Food Pantry Open 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	19 Journey Deadline	20 6:30a Men's Bible Study 11:30a Mission & Outreach mtg 7:00 TLC Choir Rehearsal	21 10:00 Women's Bible Study 6:30p Men's Ministry Mtg	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23
24 10:00 am Worship	25 9:00a Quilters 3:30p Women's Bible Study 7p—AA, Fellowship Hall	26 6:00p - Birchwood Historical meeting	27 6:30a Men's Bible Study 7:00 TLC Choir Rehearsal	28 10:00 Women's Bible Study	29	30

Trinity Lutheran Church
501 E. Chetac Ave
PO Box 8
Birchwood, WI 54817

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Annual Rummage Sale September 8 & 9



The **JOURNEY**

Sept 2023

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Daniel Tabor—Pastor

Pastor Barb Kleven—Associate Pastor

Julie Sunderland, Parish Administrator

Joanne Schilling, Choir Director

Betty Blanch & Donnarae Carrell, Custodians

501 E. Chetac Ave ♦ PO Box 8 ♦ Birchwood, WI 54817

(715) 354-3790 ♦ (715) 416-4966 (Pastor's cell)

♦ trinitylutheranbirchwood.com ♦

♦ tlcbirchwood@gmail.com ♦

JOURNEY Editor ♦ Julie Sunderland ♦ tlcbirchwood@gmail.com

Sunday School	10 am (Sept – May)
Office Hours	8 – 11:30 am, 12:30 - 3:00pm (M-Th)
Bulletin deadline	9 am Tuesdays
JOURNEY deadline	Monday - 3 rd week of the month
Pastor's Office Hours	Mondays (8 am—4:30 pm) Wednesdays & Thursdays (8—11:30 pm)

Sunday Worship Services

Sept 3— Outdoor Worship 8:30am

Sept 3 -Worship w/communion @ 10 am

Sept 10 — Worship w/communion @ 10 am

Sept 17 — Worship w/communion @ 10 am

Sept 24 — Worship w/communion @ 10 am

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Debbie Davis	Tracy Reid
Andy Hedman	Bill Rice
Barb Hinderman	Ro Sackmann
Ed Leader	Carter Sackmann
Lora	Timothy Wallace
Sharon Mackey	Donna Willis

In the military: Rigil Christensen, and all those serving in the military.